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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/058,021	01/29/2002	Takaei Kitagawa	D-1215	2668

7590 02/06/2003

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EXAMINER

CYGAN, MICHAEL T.

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2856

DATE MAILED: 02/06/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/058,021

Applicant(s)

KITAGAWA, TAKAEI

Examiner

Michael Cygan

Art Unit

2856

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 29 January 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

1. Claims 4-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 4 and 7 recite the limitation "said position sensor" in their last lines. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by O'Dougherty (US 5,924,794). O'Dougherty discloses the claimed method, comprising mixing two different liquids (a concentrate and a diluent) having a predetermined mixing ratio (i.e., a desired concentration of the concentrate in the diluent) by setting a switching timing (amount of time the associated valves are opened), determining an actual mixing ratio with

sensors and analyzers [34,45], calculating mixing ratio errors as the difference between predicted and actual ratios ("Injection Constant" for both Concentrate and Diluent), storing the updated constant in memory [44], which is used to correct the switching timing for future operations. The valves are sequentially operated as shown in Figure 5A (steps [200,205]). Apparatus for performing the above method is disclosed, including switch valves [32,156], pump [26], mix tank [12], detectors [34,36], calculation microprocessor [42], memory [44], and correction portion [40] connected to calculation portion and switch valves and memory portion. See entire document, especially column 5, lines 3-52; column 7 line 29 through column 8 line 24; column 10 line 47 through column 11 line 42; column 12, line 64 through column 13, line 46.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 5-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over O'Dougherty (US 5,924,794) in view of Allington (US 3,398,689).

O'Dougherty teaches the claimed invention except application to a liquid chromatograph having a column and utilizing density gradients as well as

a pump including a pump chamber having plunger, cam, motor, and position sensor. Allington teaches an apparatus for mixing two liquids and transferring the mixture to a detector which is applied to a liquid chromatograph having a column and utilizing density gradients as well as a pump including a pump chamber having plunger, cam, motor, and position sensor (see column 2, lines 9-31; column 4, line 67 through column 6, line 46; column 7, lines 18-45). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a liquid chromatograph having a column and utilizing density gradients as well as a pump including a pump chamber having plunger, cam, motor, and position sensor in the invention taught by O'Dougherty to act as the controlled system, since Allington teaches that a pump including a pump chamber having plunger, cam, motor, and position sensor provides a practically constant flow of liquid (which is beneficial for the ability to produce a desired concentration through valve switching in the invention taught by O'Dougherty), and that a liquid chromatograph in which the column is attached to a components detector requires a specified variation of relative concentration with respect to the amount of liquid pumped for density gradients measurements, and therefore would provide a beneficial application for the mixing device taught by O'Dougherty.

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Schrenker (US 4,239,623) and Kono (JP 3113365 A) disclose valve timing calibrations for liquid chromatographs. Melendez (US 6,374,845 B1) discloses a valve timing calibration for a liquid mixing apparatus. Baldwin (US 4,311,586) discloses pump timing calibrations for liquid chromatographs. Further disclosures of liquid composition control are disclosed by Ritzmann (US 2,462,995), Carson (US 4,595,496), Welch (US 5,712,481), Takita (US 6,463,941 B1), Peltzer (US 6,224,778 B1), Quittner (US 2,977,199), and Carbonell (US 3,987,808).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Cygan whose telephone number is 703-305-0846. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-6 M-Th, alternate Fridays.

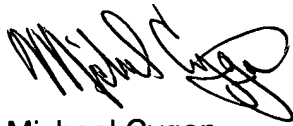
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hezron Williams can be reached on 703-305-4705. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-7722 for regular communications and 703-308-7722 for After Final communications.

Application/Control Number: 10/058,021

Page 6

Art Unit: 2856

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-306-3431.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Cygan', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michael Cygan
February 4, 2003